

"This application is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Application Serial number

A1 08/161,816 filed on December 6, 1993, incorporated herein by reference." to

insert --This is a continuation application of US Application No. 09/518,681 filed March 3, 2000

which in turn claims is continuation-in-part application of U.S. Application Serial number

08/161,816 filed on December 6, 1993, now Patent No. 5,999,907, each of which is incorporated

herein by reference.--

A2 IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 through 14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 15 through 41. (Clean claims attached to preliminary amendment)

A3 IN THE ABSTRACT

insert Please replace the abstract with the new abstract attached.

#### REMARKS

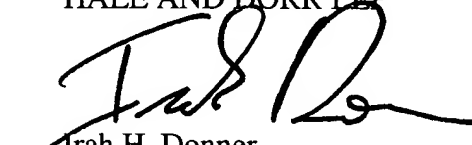
This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to improve the form of the specification and claims as originally filed. The Related Applications Section has been corrected to more appropriately claim priority and continuation status. It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be favorably examined and entered in the above-referenced application.

#### AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 08-0219.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to deposit account no. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,  
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